

Each one of my pieces should be viewed individually at first and eventually evoke a recollection of memories belonging to the audience member. Setting them up individually doesn't necessarily mean they will be in their own space, but rather they will be near pieces like it, and still be able to be interpreted on their own.

The different pieces portray different emotions that can vary depending on the color, contrast, lines and values. The overarching theme for most of the pieces was 'Before the Golden Years'. In other words, memories and emotions that the viewer has or will experience before they retire. Having each piece near other pieces portraying similar emotions creates an appropriate layout for each piece to attract certain viewers. There is no specific order in which the viewer needs to see or experience each of the pieces, but the goal is to create a series of remembrance of subjective experiences in the viewer to stimulate a nostalgic feeling.

Experiencing them individually will allow them to interpret, relate or remember an event or time where they felt a certain way like that portrayed in the art piece. For instance, my piece *Drudge*, has sharp contrast between black and white or my application of thin and thick lines add a hollow effect on the different facial features, reminding the viewer of a time when they had a job they didn't enjoy and may cause them to regret for not leaving it sooner or be glad that they were able to find a better one. A different viewer may be reminded of stress from their high school or college years.

*Melt* would have a similar effect but with different results. With the bright colors and surreal like style, it resembles a more dreamlike atmosphere. The warm, pastel salmon color affects the viewer by reminding them of a long, relaxing shower. By using warmer tones, I was able to portray steam and provoke feelings of being in a shower. Other pieces, such as *Ties*, is slightly more difficult to interpret due to my personal meaning and reason for the creation of this piece. Hence, I decided to install it next to *Candy* which also explains a taboo topic, drug addiction, that not many people like to talk about if they've or someone close to them have experienced it or something similar.

The strategy I decided to use when deciding the layout of the exhibition was to divide them into three categories. The three themes are: sadness, transitional and joy. The categories would flow into one another almost like a gradient. Sadness included pieces such as *Frayed*, *Drudge*, and *Ties*. These pieces represent the lowest points of people's lives, where they've struggled the most. Transitional would focus on emotions such as anger, annoyance and reflection. The pieces I used for this category included *Indifference*, *Listen Twice as Much as You Talk*, *Week Month Year* and *E*. This category focused on times where a person has experiences of anger, self-discovery and annoyance. The final category relates to joy in which I used pieces such as *We Need A Pencil*, *Melt* and *Santa Cruz Port*. These pieces are much more vibrant and emphasize the more favorable times in life.

My overall intention for my exhibition was to create a series of relatable moments. For a younger audience, it can incite some curiosity behind the story of these different pieces. For an older audience, my intention was to cause a recollection of different events or emotions that occurred throughout their lifetime. Overall, the main reason why I chose 'Before the Golden years' was because when a person retires, it's a frequent practice to travel, relax and not worry about working any longer. To reach the 'Golden Years,' they would have had to worked hard to succeed in life or have confronted many obstacles. To conclude, my art projects became a projection of self-discovery and nostalgia in which I want to provoke similar effects on different audience members.